

Brooklyn 19 April 1853

My dear James

My letter of Saturday will have been a comfort to dear Mother, whose efforts to trace a few lines have truly affected me. Your account of her is very interesting; it is evident however, that the effort of writing is too much for her.

I had another letter from William today written on his birthday; he says: I should have wished to have had more time on this particular day, both for reflection & for writing, but suffice it to say, that although far distant from any of my friends & having no one here to tender the usual congratulations & good wishes verbally, which I nevertheless take the liberty to imagine, I still feel happier on this day than I have for many years past on the same occasion, from the fact that at last "something has turned up" & from a mere apprentice I have become a journeyman in the workshop of Society!

He speaks enthusiastically of the mine - says he has just sent to N.Y. a block of solid ore weighing about $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton, such as no other mine in the world could produce. The native copper of Lake Superior certainly occurs in large masses, but then they are isolated, while this ore occurs in a vein 5 feet thick & increasing fast as we go down.

I have in reply cautioned him against using such hyperbolic language - he is always too sanguine & renders himself ridiculous by it. He ought especially to be careful in what he says to his employers.

I think I mentioned to you in my last letter, that my brother in law Gundlach has written to me with a view to assist me - that William might probably advantageously turn his attention to manufacture these chemicals & that he would communicate his last improvements, which he considers himself fully entitled to do, as they are his invention. He asks, whether there is much Salycatanfäure (I suppose Sulphuric acid) made in America! For this, his new apparatus gives very profitable results & William might either manufacture the article or sell the apparatus to others. He also asks, whether Effiguration is produced here or whereabouts? Whether the pyrolysaceous acid is made? Then he would like to know, whether a new black dye (Antra) might not be advantageously introduced, which is applied chiefly to dying silks and peluch (for hats) but may likewise be used for other materials. He says, it is easy to make it, but being a secret, it would not be easily found out.

Do me the favor of giving me your opinion on these matters. Of course, without knowing any thing of the process, it is difficult to say, whether any thing can be made of them - but as we know that Gundlach is a thorough Chemist & he would not offer these processes, if he did not consider them highly valuable.

I can well imagine, that you have been very busy at the Mint lately. Will it avail anything, towards keeping you in the Office? You say nothing on this head. Does the new Director has entire on his duties. Does he know any thing about them?

William's address is.

W. L. Faber

Coppermine

Greensboro P.O.

Guilford Co., North Carolina.

My first letter had not yet reached him.

If I can manage it, I will try to pay you a flying visit, in order to have a long talk with Grandmother & Aunt, as well as yourself, but I can fix no time for it yet. I am under the influence of a bad cold just now.

The Children send you much love. Anna will write to Grandmother this week.

My wife joins in kind regards.

Yours affectionately
W. L. Faber

I hardly think I am correct in supposing Salycatanfäure to mean Sulphuric acid, but you will know.

April 19, 1853
O. W. Gaber
Brooklyn
N.Y.

1853

Professor James L. North
Mother & Reform Soc. S. Minn
Philadelphia

